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ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE DIVISION

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS

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July 31, 1981

LEGISLATURE BRINGS CHANGES IN ADAD ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The 1981 Montana Legislature funded ADAD for three functions: administration, evaluation and certification of the state's alcohol and drug programs. The reporting and alcohol information sections were scaled down, and the technical assistance, training and prevention and education functions were reorganized into a single section of three staff members who will be skilled in all of these areas.

The planning section was combined with the Management Information System in another organizational change. This change will have no effect on the services offered in these areas.

ADAD will no longer operate the Employee Assistance Program for all of state government, but will continue to provide that service for the Department of Institutions.

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Among the complaints for which 911 operators will no longer dispatch radio cars are clogged sewers, dead animals and drug addicts in need of assistance.

--- New York Daily News

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NINE RECEIVE CERTIFICATION

On June 22, in compliance with legislative mandate, counselor certification was realized when seven field and two Helena-based ADAD personnel were awarded certificates.

Having successfully completed all phases of the certification procedure, these people enjoy a unique status in becoming the first Alcohol and Drug Abuse personnel ever to be certified in Montana. The Distinction of receiving certificate #1 went to Myrle Mitchell who has been, for the past 8 years, employed as a counselor in the "Changes" drug program in Butte.

Everyone in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division extends their congratulations not only to Myrle, but to the other 8 people who have achieved this distinction. Listed below are the 9 people who are now fully certified by the State of Montana.

Myrle Mitchell
Marcella McGeever
Dennis Maercklein
Jo Acton
Marilyn Bishop
DeDe Wirtzberger
Donald "Skip" Wilcox
Maxine Jacobson
Robert MacConnel

Butte Drug Program
Butte Alcohol Program
Lincoln & Sanders Co. Alcohol Program
Rimrock Drug Program of Billings
Ennis Satellite - Bozeman Program
Hill-Top Recovery Center - Havre
Montana Drug Program Supervisor
Missoula Drug Program
ADAD - Training & Certification

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ALCOHOL PROGRAM AT FORT HARRISON

A 30-day alcohol treatment program has recently been established at the Fort Harrison VA Center. Its capacity is eight. General eligibility requirements are that the client qualifies for VA benefits, is physically and emotionally capable of full participation and wants to alter his drinking behavior.

The basic treatment plan includes group and individual therapy, educational sessions, recreation, AA involvement and aftercare. Detoxification services are also available.

For more information about alcohol services at Fort Harrison, call Pat Winfield (442-6410, ext. 292) or Evan Lewis (442-6410, ext. 397).

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Authorities in Peking are concerned about high mortality among older tourists in that city due to a combination of age, overexertion and over-consumption of the rich Peking duck. (Substance abuse?)

--- Wall Street Journal

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FY 1982 CERTIFICATION EXAM DATES

A tentative schedule of written and oral examination dates for certification applicants in fiscal year 1982 has been set.

The State Job Service will continue to administer the written test. Depending upon the geographical distribution of applicants, cities in eastern and western Montana, as well as Helena, will be selected as sites for the oral examination.

WRITTEN TEST

(All Wednesdays)

September 9, 1981
October 7, 1981
January 6, 1982
March 3, 1982
May 5, 1982

ORAL TEST

(All Saturdays)

September 26, 1981
October 31, 1981
February 6, 1982
April 3, 1982
June 5, 1982

Because of the large number of applicants who are failing to honor their scheduled appointments for the written and oral examinations, we are urgently suggesting that you notify the Certification Section at least four (4) days in advance if you are unable to make your examination date. Continued failure to notify us will probably result in a cash deposit, refundable after the examination, as a guarantee of your appearance.

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1982 DRUG AND ALCOHOL PLAN

The Montana Comprehensive Plan for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation for fiscal year 1982 was reviewed by the Statewide Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency on June 29, 1981.

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NEW TITLE 53 RULES AND REGULATIONS

ADAD will be publishing revised rules and regulations for compliance with Title 53, Chapter 24, Section 208 of the MCA for community treatment programs in the near future. A public hearing will be scheduled sometime in August.

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Sixteen percent of those who experiment with heroin will respond in an addictive manner.

--- Dr. Herbert Berger

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TASK FORCE ON DIAGNOSIS

ADAD is forming a Task Force on Alcohol and Drug Diagnosis composed of treatment professionals from a variety of disciplines.

The task force will identify usable diagnostic tools that will lead to appropriate treatment, and offer technical assistance to treatment people around the state. It will also develop a screening device to distinguish people with alcohol problems from those without.

Members of the task force include Kay Flinn, ADAD staff; Dick Rice, Clinical Director of the State Drug Program; Carroll Jenkins, an alcohol treatment professional in private practice; and Candis Compton, ADAD staff.

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COURSES AT THE JOHNSON INSTITUTE

The Johnson Institute in Minneapolis is offering several summer and fall courses for alcohol and drug treatment professionals.

Subjects to be covered include chemical dependency and adolescents, chemical dependency and the family, and intervention skills. There will also be a new group seminar on adolescence and chemical abuse.

For more information on dates, fees and registration contact the Johnson Institute, Department 813, 10700 Olson Memorial Highway, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441. (612) 544-4165.

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TREAD FILMS IN 1981

In ordering films for use in the TREAD program for fiscal year 1981, ADAD has tried to touch all the bases and cover such topics as the impact of alcohol on families, teenagers, drugs, and women.

The list of films ordered is as follows:

Marijuana, Driving and You (3)
Lisa: The Legacy of Sandra Blain
Joey and Me
The Social Drinker and the Anti-Social Driver
Stoned
Women, Drugs and Alcohol
The Intervention
Romance to Recovery
It Can't Happen To Me
Drugs and Alcohol: Viable Alternatives
Drugs and Alcohol: Making the Decision

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"PEASHOOTERS" ARE A PROBLEM

The constant popularity of stimulants has led to a new spinoff in the drug market, "peashooters" or "lookalikes". These simulations of prescription drugs contain caffeine, decongestants and antihistamines, either singly or in combinations. They are made to resemble the stronger, prescription-only amphetamines frequently used by dieters. The market for these "lookalikes" is growing, with wholesale distributors advertising in magazines and newspapers and selling them by the thousands.

Because their ingredients are all legal, "peashooters" are a real problem for drug regulatory and enforcement agencies. They almost certainly end up being misrepresented in street drug transactions, and they pose a threat to users who take them in quantity or don't know about their possible adverse reactions or idiosyncratic responses. Also, users who habitually take the relatively mild "peashooters" in quantity risk an overdose when they come across the "real thing".

In Montana, general knowledge of the availability of these pills seems widespread. High school students know they are for sale and know how to get them. These "peashooters" are anything but harmless, and drug enforcement professionals should be on the lookout for their abuse.

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